

May 08, 2014

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
Commission looks forward to welcoming two new Commissioners

The Washington State Charter School Commission is excited to announce the appointments of Dr. Roberta J. Wilburn and Raymond Navarro, Jr. to the Commission. Both new commissioners were appointed by Governor Inslee, and possess deep knowledge and experience in our K-12 education system.

“The Charter School Commission welcomes Roberta and Raymond,” said Commission Chair Steve Sundquist. “Both Commissioners bring tremendous skills and experience to the Commission as well as perspectives from different parts of Washington State. They will help us deepen and broaden our capability as we continue to develop the best charter school authorizing agency in the United States.”

Dr. Wilburn is currently Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in Education & Diversity Initiatives at Whitworth University, and has over 30 years of experience in higher education in the subjects of Teacher Training, Counseling, Cultural Awareness, International Studies, Early Intervention, Early Childhood Education, and Family Support Programs. She holds an Ed.D in Early Childhood/Special Education from George Washington University and her Th.D in Christian Counseling from Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Dr. Wilburn has served as Chair of the Division of Education at Lemoyne-Owen College, as well as a professor of special education at the University of Memphis, Howard University, and Delaware State College. Most recently, Dr. Wilburn was awarded the NAACP Service Award by the Spokane Chapter in 2013. “My vision is for equal access to high quality education for all students in Washington regardless of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender or cultural group,” said Dr. Wilburn. “The learning opportunities in our state should be as diverse as the students we serve; with programs that are intentionally designed utilizing innovative, differentiated, instructional strategies based on sound pedagogical principles.”

Mr. Navarro, Jr. currently serves on the Yakima School District Board of Directors, and is the board’s WIAA Representative. He holds an M.Ed in Guidance and Counseling from Heritage University and his MA in Human and Organization Systems from Fielding Graduate University. Mr. Navarro, Jr. is Director of the Central Washington University Academic Achievement Programs, and has been an active volunteer in the Yakima community for many years, serving as coach and mentor for the Southeast Yakima Saints Grid Kids Football program, and mentor for the YMCA ASPIRE Program. Mr. Navarro, Jr. is a proud Army veteran, serving as a Squad Leader with C Company, 307th Combat Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Mr. Navarro, Jr. has three children who have attended Washington State public schools.

The two new appointees succeed Commissioners Chris Martin and Dr. Doreen Cato, and each will contribute strongly to the Commission’s mission of authorizing high-quality public charter schools that improve educational outcomes for at-risk students in Washington State.